

Newsletter of the London Chapter Ontario Archaeological Society

APRIL, 1980

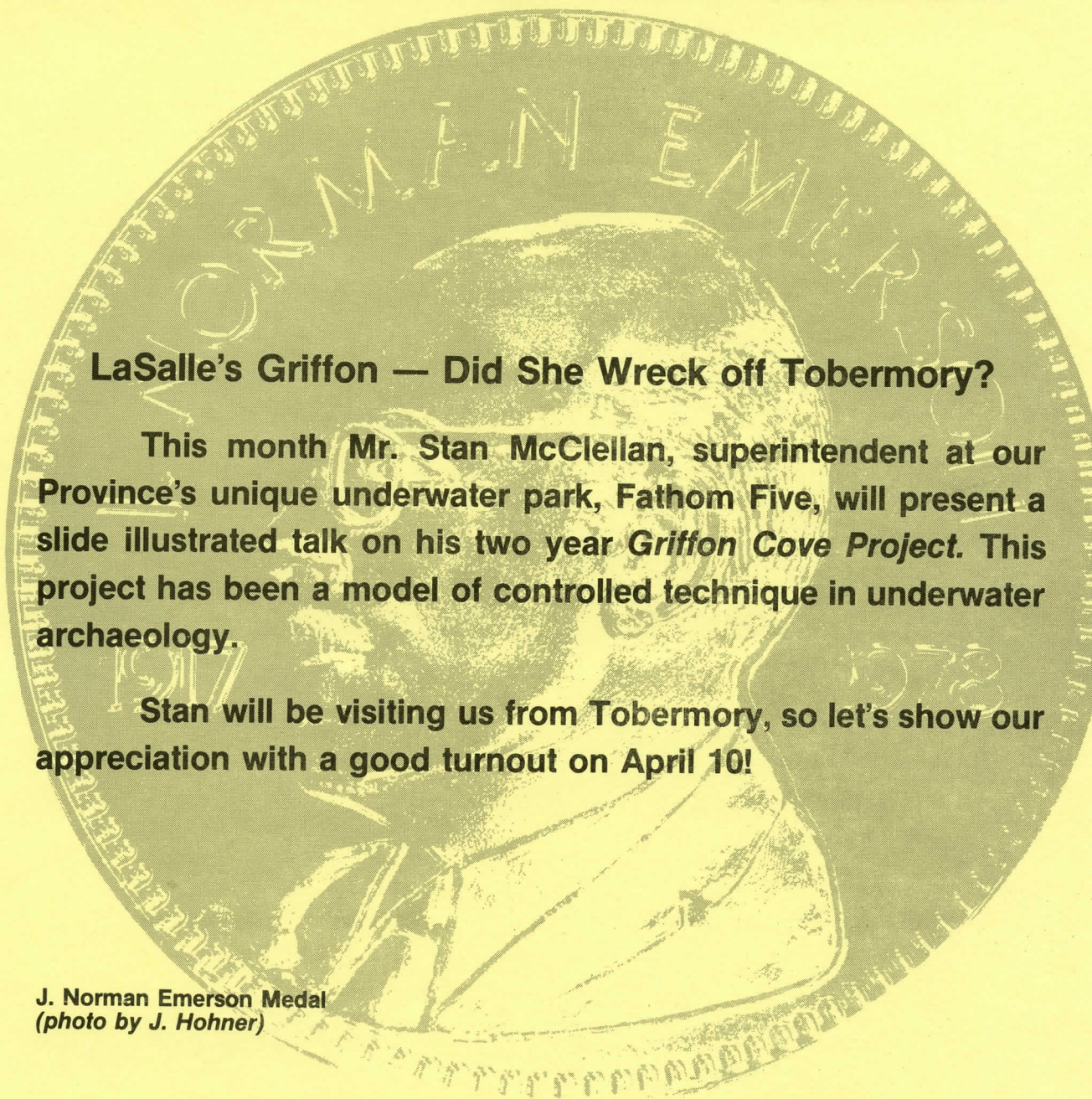
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LaSalle's Griffon — Did She Wreck off Tobermory?

This month Mr. Stan McClellan, superintendent at our Province's unique underwater park, Fathom Five, will present a slide illustrated talk on his two year *Griffon Cove Project*. This project has been a model of controlled technique in underwater archaeology.

Stan will be visiting us from Tobermory, so let's show our appreciation with a good turnout on April 10!

J. Norman Emerson Medal
(photo by J. Hohner)



EXECUTIVE REPORT

Our executive's monthly meeting was hosted by George Connoy on Wednesday, March 26 in St. Thomas. The first subject to be considered was the provision of a one year Chapter membership to guest speakers who come from outside London. The proposal was accepted and made retroactive to January 1 of this year.

Next, a letter from O.A.S. President M. Latta was read and discussed. Dr. Latta expressed concern that, despite difficulties in the existing "constitution", ties between Chapters and the parent body should be strengthened. The matter of Chapter member non payment of Toronto dues was brought up again (primarily applicable to other Chapters).

Symposium discussion revolved around the setting up of a petty cash expense fund, and the positive replies which have been received from institutions and individuals who were solicited for input to the Symposium memoir. A meeting of Symposium committee heads was held subsequently on Wednesday, April 2 at the Keron residence.

Other topics of discussion at the March 26 meeting included our annual Chapter picnic, response to the Chapter excavation questionnaire, and attendance at monthly general meetings.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

Considerable interest in our June 28 O.A.S. lithic workshop has been expressed by both local and Toronto members. Half the quota has been filled and it has yet to be announced in Arch Notes!

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said regarding membership response to proposals for a Chapter excavation project and the annual summer picnic. To date we have only three volunteers for the excavation,

and unless there is a strong show of support over the next month, the project will be cancelled.

Those of us who attended last year's picnic realize how unfortunate it would be to have to cancel the proceedings this year. Indeed, it is doubtful that we would allow that to happen. The combination of good company, good food and enjoyable activities made last year's picnic such a success that it is hard to understand why the Chapter has had such difficulty in attracting more than the regular handful of stalwarts to this event. This really does appear to be the golden era of passive entertainment!

Further to my threat in the last issue of KEWA, below you will find another in our series of research reports. Where are the Lewis Binford of the future?!

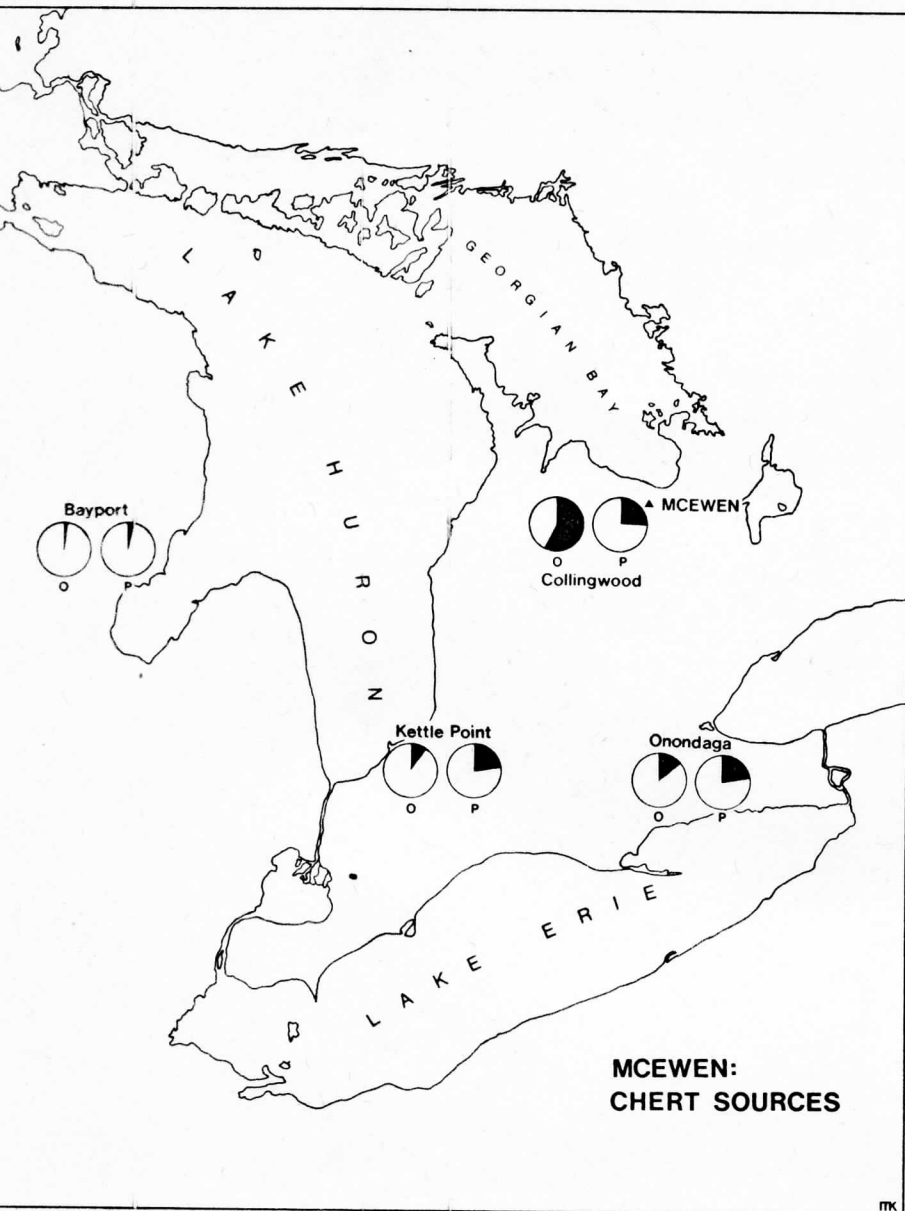
LITHIC TOOLS FROM THE McEWEN SITE (BCHB-17)

WILLIAM A. FOX

Over the last summer, Mike and Christine Kirby and others test excavated four middens on the McEwen village under the direction of Mr. C. Garrad. Fifteen five foot units were opened in an effort to determine the age and extent of the site. Subsequently, the writer received the excavated lithic artifacts plus an earlier surface collection for study.

The 1979 artifacts and the earlier surface collection held by Mr. C. Garrd have been supplemented by materials held by the Royal Ontario Museum. During study of the latter collection some nine years ago, a side notched projectile point recovered by Mr. J. Blair of Duntroon was noted as a possible indication of a prehistoric occupation

RE 1



on the site. This would have made the McEwen village unique, in being the only multi-component Iroquoian site in the Petun area.

PROJECTILE POINTS

A small sample, including five triangular and one side notched specimen, was recovered in 1979. To this assemblage has been added nine triangular points from the R.O.M. collections, and eighteen triangular and four side notched points and point fragments recovered in previous years of surface collecting.

All five side notched specimens are manufactured from Onondaga chert, as is typical of this Late Prehistoric Iroquoian form. Of the triangular points, nine are Onondaga, eight Collingwood, seven Kettle Point, one Bayport, one Bruce(?), and six are of unidentified cherts (see Figure 1 and Table 1).

TABLE 1: TRIANGULAR PROJECTILE POINT RAW MATERIAL AND DIMENSIONS

<u>CHERT</u>	<u>LENGTH</u>	<u>BREADTH</u>	<u>THICKNESS</u>
Kettle Point	37	27	7
Kettle Point	28	15	4
Kettle Point	37	23	7
Kettle Point	30	19	7
Kettle Point	27	16	4
Kettle Point	21+	18	5
Kettle Point	23+	18	3
Onondaga	35	22	4
Onondaga	32	18	4
Onondaga	29	14	3
Onondaga	20	16	4
Onondaga	21*	16*	4
Onondaga	25	17	5
Onondaga	20*	14	4
Onondaga	36*	14	5 Possibly Prehistoric
Onondaga	38	16	5 Possibly Prehistoric
Collingwood	29	19	5
Collingwood	28	20	4
Collingwood	28*	20	6
Collingwood	30	20	5
Collingwood	25	17	4
Collingwood	15+	16	4
Collingwood	17	10	3 Possible toy point
Collingwood	28	16	8 Reject
Bruce	25*	18	6
Bayport	27	17	5
Unidentified	25	16*	4
Unidentified	23	17	5
Unidentified	25*	15	5
Unidentified	26+	18+	5
Unidentified	19+	18	4
Unidentified	27	16	7 Possible reject

* Slight damage, dimension estimated.

While identification of additional side notched point specimens in Garrad's surface collection and excavation of one such point from Midden 1 argues for at least a small and perhaps very localized Late Prehistoric component on the site, the paucity to date of undisturbed sub-plough deposits has prevented isolation of this earlier component. Measuring 21 mm. in length, the excavated notched specimen is heavily reworked making its breadth/length ratio of little use for purposes of comparison with the other measureable surface specimens. Its breadth, thickness and internotch breadth are 13, 3, and 6 mm., respectively, and the lateral edges are convex, while the base is concave.

Only two of the four surface collected points were complete enough for measurement, although all specimens exhibited convex lateral edges. The concave, oblique based point is 41, 13, 7 and 9.5 mm. in length, breadth, thickness and internotch breadth, while the second specimen measures 24, 13, 3 and 11.0 mm. The base of the latter is convex, but not oblique.

Two Onondaga chert triangular points recovered from the surface display a long, isocetes, concave based form similar to Late Prehistoric notched points and preforms, and unlike the normally shorter, more equilateral Historic Petun triangular point shape (see Table 1). These too may pertain to the earlier component, but their provenience can provide no support for this proposal and they have been included in the triangular point sample for metric descriptive purposes. The average size and shape of the twenty-five complete triangular projectile points compares most favourably with the Historic Petun Plater-Martin and Campbell-Kelly samples (see Figure 2).

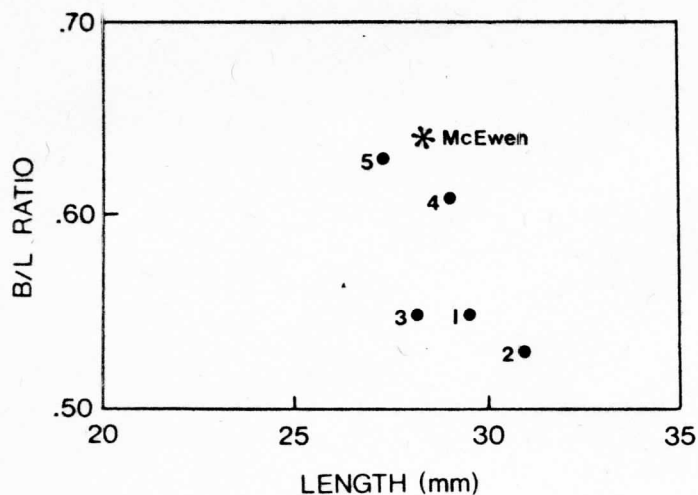


FIGURE 2: TRIANGULAR POINT MEAN SHAPE AND SIZE

1. Sidey-Mackay (N-21)
2. Melville (N-22)
3. Haney-Cook (N-36)
4. Campbell-Kelly (N-42)
5. Plater-Martin (N-17)

The modal lateral edge configuration is convex/convex (21/31), the modal basal edge configuration is concave (19/31) and 33 percent (9/27) of the measurable points are oblique as defined by Fox (1977).

BIFACE FRAGMENTS

Portions of six bifaces which do not appear to have been projectile points were recovered from the 1979 excavations. The two from Midden 1 were manufactured of Collingwood and Onondaga

chert, respectively, while a fragment of an ovate specimen from Midden 3 is of Bayport chert. The remaining three are from Midden 4 and are Kettle Point (1), Onondaga (1) and unidentified (1) chert.

Biface fragments in the Garrad surface collection include three Collingwood, one Kettle Point and one burnt Onondaga chert example. In addition, there are four Collingwood chert biface rejects and a triangular biface reject of local Manitoulin Fm. chert.

SCRAPERS

Six end, two "thumbnail" flake and one side scraper were recovered in 1979, while previous surface collecting produced ten end and one "thumbnail" scraper.

Their midden provenience, raw material and form attributes are described in Table 2.

Radius refers to the scraping edge configuration, as does *C.E.* (cutting edge angle).

Five of the sixteen end scrapers display partial ventral retouch associated with the proximal (hafting) end, another is completely retouched, and one Onondaga chert end scraper is double ended.

TABLE 2: END SCRAPER ATTRIBUTES

<u>PROVENIENCE</u>	<u>LENGTH (mm)</u>	<u>RADIUS (cm.)</u>	<u>°C.E.</u>	<u>CHERT</u>	<u>VENTRAL RETOUCH</u>
Midden 1	26	1.0	70°	Collingwood	Partial (stem)
Midden 1	35	.80	90°	Collingwood	Partial (stem)
Midden 1	28	1.25	60°	Collingwood	None
Midden 1	26	.60	60°	Onondaga	None
		.50*	80°		
Midden 1	31	.75	60°	Collingwood	Partial (stem)
Midden 2	36	.50	80°	Collingwood	Partial (stem)
Surface	37	.75	60°	Collingwood	None
Surface	36	.60	80°	Collingwood	Partial (stem)
Surface	37	1.0	70°	Collingwood	None
Surface	55	1.25	80°	Manitoulin Fm.(?)	None
Surface	33	2.0	80°	Collingwood	None
Surface	48	1.0	70°	Collingwood	None
Surface	45	1.25	70°	Collingwood	None
Surface	47	1.25	70°	Collingwood	None
Surface	33	.75	80°	Collingwood	Complete
Surface	30	.80	80°	Onondaga	None

* Double ended

The single Collingwood chert side scraper displays bilateral continuous edge retouch and heavy use wear (transverse striations) along one of these. Collingwood chert was used in the production of Midden 1 "thumbnail" style flake scrapers, while the surface specimen is of Onondaga chert. Although the excavated sample is small, scrapers appear to be over-represented in Midden 1 (7/9).

SERRATED EDGE FLAKES

A Kettle Point specimen measuring 19 mm by 14 mm by 4 mm in length, breadth and thickness was recorded in the R.O.M. collection. It displays bilateral edge serration. Another Kettle Point chert flake in the Garrad surface collection is 30 mm long, 11 mm wide and 4 mm thick with 4 teeth/cm. along 24 mm of the right lateral and proximal edges.

CORES

Of three block cores recovered last summer, one is Collingwood chert, one Kettle Point chert and one appears to be of a local Silurian chert other than Collingwood. Nine block cores from the surface collection are of Collingwood (6), Onondaga (1), Bayport (1) and Eastport (?) (1) chert.

The form and raw material of 32 excavated and 46 surface collected bipolar cores is described in Table 3.

TABLE 3: BIPOLAR CORE FORM AND RAW MATERIAL

		<u>COLLINGWOOD</u>	<u>KETTLE POINT</u>	<u>BAYPORT</u>	<u>ONONDAGA</u>	<u>QUARTZ</u>	<u>UNIDENTIFIED</u>
Opposed	Ridge	18	2		3		1
Angle	Ridge	4	1	1			
Point	Ridge	11			2		2
Point	Point	10	3			1	
Area	Ridge	8					
Area	Point	3	1				
Area	Area	2					
Fragment		5			1		

DEBITAGE

The percentage frequency of four cherts represented in artifacts other ("0") than projectile points consists primarily of debitage and is illustrated in Figure 1. More detailed debitage raw material frequencies for the excavated units and surface collection are presented in Table 4.

TABLE 4: DEBITAGE RAW MATERIAL

	<u>COLLINGWOOD</u>	<u>KETTLE POINT</u>	<u>ONONDAGA</u>	<u>BAYPORT</u>	<u>MANITOULIN FM.</u>	<u>MANITOULIN (?)</u>
Excavated	461	74	97	16	7	2
Surface	188	44	72	2	-	-
	<u>EASTPORT</u>	<u>SCOTT</u>	<u>HUDSON BAY LOWLAND</u>	<u>UNIDENTIFIED CHERT</u>	<u>LIMESTONE</u>	<u>QUARTZ</u>
Excavated	-	-	1	171	77	8
Surface	1	3	-	23	13	1

A Collingwood chert pebble recovered from Midden 4, plus 6 surface specimens and a Manitoulin Fm. chert pebble from the surface indicate a secondary source for at least a portion of the local chert. The numerous limestone flakes appear to derive from pipe manufacturing activities.

Table 5 describes the frequency and percentage occurrence of purposeful edge retouched debitage by raw material noted in the total sample.

TABLE 5: RETOUCED FLAKE RAW MATERIAL

<u>COLLINGWOOD</u>		<u>KETTLE POINT</u>		<u>ONONDAGA</u>		<u>HUDSON BAY LOWLAND</u>		<u>UNIDENTIFIED CHERT</u>	
f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%	f	%
44	7	7	6	35	21	1	100	5	3

These artifacts generally correspond to the *Informal Artifacts* described by Fox (1979) for the Historic Huron Robitaille village assemblage. The abbervantly high percentage of retouched Onondaga chert debitage may be a function of the reworking of Onondaga chert tools, such as scrapers, carried onto the site in a finished form.

ADZES

No complete specimens have been discovered to date; however, a fragmentary half was excavated from Midden 3 in 1979. It is 42 mm, 35 mm and 20 mm in length, breadth and thickness. The intact bit of this hornblende shist adze measures 23 mm in breadth. A chlorite shist adze bit fragment from Midden 2 retains 33 mm of the bit breadth, while a small ground gabbro fragment from Midden 3 probably pertained to an adze and a flake from the bit of a chlorite shist adze was recovered from Midden 1.

BEADS

A catlinite bead was excavated from Midden 4 in two fragments. It displays a rectanguloid cross-section (4 mm. by 4 mm.) and has a total length of 21 mm. The bore diameter is 1.8 mm at each end, tapering to 1.1 mm in the center, where the two drill holes met.

Two red siltstone fragments from the surface have been slotted in the process of bead production (Fox, 1980).

PIPES

Limestone flakes and fragments, some sawn and resulting from the manufacture of pipes have been described in the *Debitage* section. No limestone pipes or fragments were excavated last year, but a number have been collected from the village surface. The Royal Ontario Museum holds a human head and a bear head effigy from the McEwen village, while Garrad's collection includes a rim fragment from a collared (human face effigy?) bowl, plus a reworked fragment of what appears to have been a bird effigy style bowl. A small human face effigy has been carved into the "chest" of the latter specimen, perhaps after it was broken. Finally, an elbow-shaped fragment of limestone appears to have been rejected in the process of manufacturing a pipe.

DISCUSSION

The notched bifacial projectile points are indicative of an early sixteenth century component, which may be limited to the Midden 1 vicinity of the village. It is possible that two Onondaga chert triangular projectile points and the double ended Onondaga chert scraper also pertain to the earlier component, as well as an indeterminate amount of the other Midden 1 tools and debitage. Unfortunately, none of the Midden 1 area excavated had escaped

plough disturbance; however, the earlier material appears to be concentrated down slope in the most westerly units. No horizontal or vertical patterning of ceramic vessel rim styles was evident in support of the multi-component nature of Midden 1 or the village in general (C. Garrad, pers. comm.).

With the prehistoric notched projectile points removed, the remaining triangular bifacial points (including two possible prehistoric specimens) averaged 28.3 mm in length (s. 5.2 mm), with a mean breadth/length ratio of .64 (s. .10), well within the range of Historic Petun assemblages. The lateral and basal edge configurations, as well as the frequency of oblique bases all conform to the Petun norm. Raw material frequencies of Onondaga (28%), Collingwood (25%), Kettle Point (22%), Bayport (3%), Bruce (3%), and unidentified cherts (19%) do not compare particularly favourably with any other documented Contact or Historic period Petun village (Fox, 1979a, b, c).

Little can be said regarding the biface fragments, except to point out that one was manufactured of Bayport chert from present day Saginaw Bay. The rejects indicate that biface manufacturing based on local cherts was occurring on site, probably during the Historic period.

Scrapers are well represented in the McEwen lithic assemblage, but several may relate to the earlier component. Although we have extremely small sample sizes from other Petun villages for comparison, with the exception of the aberrant MacMurchy village (N-19), the McEwen end scrapers compare most closely in size (mean length 36.4 mm) with the MacMurchy village sample (mean length 37.0 mm).

The two serrated edge flakes are an Historic Petun tool form, but no such specimens were recovered in the 1979 excavations.

Core forms are predominantly bipolar and of local Collingwood chert, suggesting that secondary sources producing smaller chert pebbles were utilized. The Kettle Point, Onondaga, and Bayport, chert bipolar cores probably reflect a shortage of quality chert, resulting in the re-working of exotic chert exhausted block cores and/or tools.

As with the cores, the cultural provenience of the debitage is impossible to assess. The utilization of local Manitoulin Fm. chert (N-9) is unparalleled on other Petun area sites to date and may reflect experimentation by a pioneering group from the south. These late prehistoric people probably utilized primarily local Collingwood and imported Onondaga cherts. It is assumed that the later Historic group utilized the local Collingwood chert and imported the Kettle Point, Bayport, Eastport, Scott, and perhaps some of the Onondaga chert. Who was working the quartz and importing the northern Manitoulin and Hudson Bay Lowland chert is unknown.

Ground stone adze fragments were more numerous than expected on a Historic Petun village; however, only one fragment could be connected with the prehistoric component in Midden 1.

Ornamental ground stone is rare on the village, with a single catlinite bead recovered in Midden 4, and two slotted siltstone fragments, plus some limestone pipe fragments recovered from the surface. Limestone and siltstone debitage indicates that stone pipe and bead manufacturing activities occurred on the village, almost certainly during the Historic period occupation.

CONCLUSIONS

The extant artifact assemblage from the McEwen village suggests that this site is unique in the Petun area, having both a prehistoric and an historic

component. The former may represent a small "scouting" party of Southern Division Hurons, or may relate to a specific resource acquisition activity (such as beaver hunting) in the area during the first half of the sixteenth century. Most of the site area was covered by a small Historic period village dating to the third to fifth decade of the seventeenth century.

Ceramic vessel motifs suggest that the later population may not have been Petun (C. Garrad, pers. comm.); however, neither the raw material preference as represented in debitage or tools, nor the triangular point attributes argue strongly for a non-Petun population. While the debitage cherts indicate some northern and western contacts, the majority of the raw material representing both components would appear to have been locally derived.

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